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Title: Problems being faced by senior citizens who are recipients of EPF Pension, 1995.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government, especially, the Finance Minister to the PF Scheme.

MR. SPEAKER: He is repenting being here!

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN : Sir, when the people are in the service, they are considered and regarded. At the same time, when they are not in the service, really their issues are not taken care of. Under the Employees Provident Fund Pension Scheme Act 1995, there was no provision for DA under the scheme. But at the same time, a relief was given to the pensioners annually to neutralize the effect of inflation. Unfortunately, this has been discontinued since April 2000.

Sir, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Labour has recommended strongly for giving the relief to PF pensioners. Though the Parliamentary Committee has made such a recommendation, the Government has not taken it seriously.

The other issue is that under the Scheme of 1995, the beneficiaries were ensured a minimum pension of Rs.5,000 per month as assured in the Parliament. The Parliament has assured this. But unfortunately, I would like to say that this concept has been done away with subsequently without any logic or any reason and in 1996 bringing down this minimum pension to Rs.265 per month only.

Sir, it is very sad to say that a person gets a monthly pension of Rs.265. So, I would request the hon. Finance Minister to take this issue seriously.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir I associate with him. Many of them are in very difficult situation, the pensioners with no interim relief.

MR. SPEAKER: He has very ably put it.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, I would request you to see whether the hon. Finance Minister could look into the matter seriously.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sure, he is looking seriously into every matter. I find that at least he is hearing all of them.